



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Solid Waste Division

January 2004

# Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

## Household Hazardous Waste News

### June 24 Teacher Workshop at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Real life examples, current news articles, and games that accommodate different learning styles are examples of how the *Hazards on the Homefront* program will engage your students in science, health, and environmental issues. Join us for a free workshop and discover how teachers throughout King County are teaching their students how to read product labels, choose safer alternatives, and dispose of hazardous products. King County Solid Waste Division's next *Hazards on the Homefront* teacher-training is on June 24th from 8 am – 4 pm at the South Wastewater Treatment Plant in Renton. The workshop is free of charge to all 4th - 12th grade teachers in King County.

Teachers who attend the training receive ready-to-use lesson plans, overheads, and student handouts as well as qualify for free, follow-up classroom assistance and mini-grants. (See next article). Clock hours and a stipend for certified King County teachers upon completion of workshop objectives are available.

The workshop includes a guided tour of the wastewater

treatment plant in Renton. Participants will see how King County treats over 115 million gallons of wastewater each day from Puget Sound homes, businesses and industries. Participants will see firsthand the connection of HHW to our everyday lives.

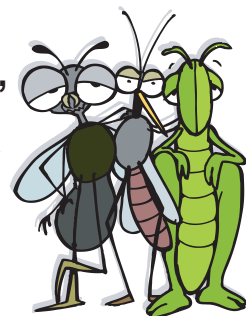
To register, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at 206-583-0655 or e-mail [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com). Visit [www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers](http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers) to learn more about what this program has to offer you. Additional workshops are planned for August and October. ♦

### Kent Elementary Students Turn Learning into Action

After attending a *Hazards on the Homefront* workshop, Nancy Riedel, a Kent Elementary teacher, received a mini-grant from King County to restore a large raised bed that was overrun with blackberries, grass and English Ivy. Her fifth-grade students are working hard to create a low-maintenance, native plant garden that will encourage birdlife. Each student is responsible for a job such as gardener, worm warden or photojournalist. Gardening journals help track the tasks required to keep the garden habitat healthy. With assistance from the City of Kent Parks Department, the students have a design for their garden as well as a few birdhouses. Planting season is just around the corner, and the class has submitted a request for native plants to small local growers. Worm bins will be introduced

in March as the season warms up. In addition to learning about safer alternatives to pesticides, bird-friendly gardening, and composting, these students are creating a healthy habitat at their school. ♦

### Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets: How Hazardous Waste Hits Home



If your students are studying health, the environment, or connecting science with social issues, or would like to do more of this, consider this highly interactive presentation. Choose from a one-hour or more in-depth 2-3 hour workshop.

Highlights include handling over 60 real household products and finding the hazardous ones, tracing the route of hazardous products from the home into water supplies, or learning safer alternatives to hazardous products by playing Toxic-Free Bingo. Teachers receive a follow-up packet and Green Cleaning Kit. Students receive handouts, including experiment cards that show how to make safe cleaners.

The program is open to grades four through twelve. Scheduling is available on a first come, first served basis. Call Gail Gensler (206-263-3082) or e-mail her at [gail.gensler@metrokc.gov](mailto:gail.gensler@metrokc.gov). For more information about the program see <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/> teachers. ♦





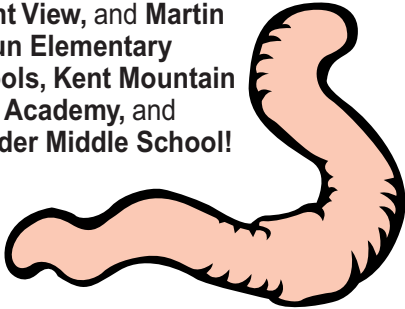
# Waste Reduction and Recycling News

## Green Team Highlights

*Green Teams are groups of students that take on environmental projects at their school.*

### Worms Eat Their Garbage

Are classroom worm bins still popular? Just ask Green Team students throughout the county who are learning about waste reduction, composting and decomposition by building worm bins for their classrooms. New worm bins can now be found at **Glendale Lutheran, Hazel Valley, Juanita, Phantom Lake, Mount View, and Martin Sortun Elementary Schools, Kent Mountain View Academy, and Islander Middle School!**



### Recycling Rules

Many students are stepping up to make recycling work at their schools. Elementary students have formed Recycling Leadership Green Teams this fall at **Parkwood, Melvin Syre, Renton Park, Glacier Park, and Woodridge Elementary Schools** as well as at the **Evergreen School**. These Green Teams have responsibilities such as emptying the recycling bins, promoting recycling with posters, public service announcements and videos, and even conducting surprise spot checks to measure classroom progress. Way to go recyclers!

### Don't Throw That Away!

Students all over King County are finding ways to reuse single-sided paper,

out-of date calendars, old magazines, and even broken pencils. They are creating their own twig pad reuse journals and unique envelopes out of materials that would otherwise go to waste. Many of these classes have also made reuse boxes so that paper can be used again before being recycled. Hands-on Reuse Green Teams can now be found at elementary schools in **Bellevue, Shoreline, Highline, Lake Washington** and **Auburn** school districts.

### Litter Patrol

Last but not least, two new Green Teams formed last fall to clean up litter on school grounds. The litter pick-up Green Teams at **Cascade View** and **Gregory Heights Elementary Schools** worked hard to make their schools cleaner and protect their local habitat. ♦

involvement, the recycling project has raised awareness and participation of teachers as well.

If your classroom or Earth/Environmental club needs funding to begin an action-oriented project, consider applying for a mini-grant. Up to \$500 is available from the King County Solid Waste Division to conduct Green Team projects at schools. Eligible teachers are those in King County outside the Seattle city limits. Grants can be used for conducting a project, purchasing materials, honorariums, speaker fees, field trips that relate to or expand on the project, or for other educational costs specified by the applicant. For more information, contact Jennifer Howell, 206-583-0655 x30, or [greenteam@triangleassociates.com](mailto:greenteam@triangleassociates.com). ♦

## Grant Helps Improve Recycling

Kim Glandon's Earth Club at **Bothell High School** purchased 100 plastic classroom recycling bins with funds from a King County Green Team mini-grant. These funds enabled them to provide three bins in each classroom: one for glass/plastic and cans, one for mixed paper and the last for garbage. They also purchased large tote bins which they distributed throughout

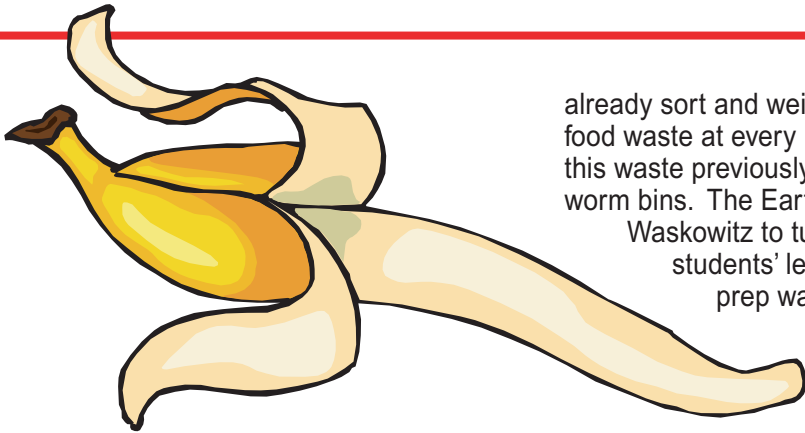
the school grounds for collection of recyclable glass and plastic. Members of the Earth Club empty the totes for school district pick-up and transport to the recycling center. Ms. Glandon reports that in addition to the positive student



## Recycling Help Available

Does your school need help to improve its recycling program? King County assists schools that want to add new materials to their recycling programs and to increase participation and the amount of material recycled. To request assistance, contact Dale Alekel at 206-296-8457. ♦





already sort and weigh their leftover food waste at every meal. Some of this waste previously was placed in worm bins. The Earth Tub will allow Waskowitz to turn all of the students' leftovers, kitchen prep waste, and landscaping clippings into great compost for their grounds maintenance staff to use.

## Schools Reduce Waste with Food Waste Composting

Five schools are using an on-site, in-vessel (containerized) food waste composting system for the next three years as part of a King County pilot project. These schools will provide King County information on how much food waste they are putting into the system, how much finished compost they are getting out, and how much time they are spending to manage the system. In return for this information (and permission to feature the schools in case studies) King County, with assistance from the Washington State Department of Ecology, paid for a significant portion of the initial cost for each of the composting systems.

**Lake Washington Technical College** has a BioStack vermicomposting system out the back door of the culinary arts classroom kitchen. Students in the culinary arts program place fruit and vegetable scraps daily into the BioStack. Students in the horticultural department maintain the system, and harvest the vermicompost for use as a soil amendment in the garden.

**Waskowitz Outdoor Education Center** has an Earth Tub in place and nearly ready for use. The Earth Tub is right outside their dining hall and its use will be incorporated into the curriculum of the camp. The students

**Crestwood Elementary** has just committed to using an Earth Tub starting in February. The Defenders of the Plant environmental club will take charge of the system. Each class will sort out its compostable food scraps every lunch period and a class representative will take these to feed to the "Big Pig" Earth Tub. Finished compost will be used on the school grounds to nourish plants in their butterfly garden and other garden beds.

When **Briarwood Elementary** heard of the opportunity to acquire a BioStack system, they quickly jumped on board. Their environmental club has taken on the work of tending to the needs of the worms with enthusiasm. They helped arrange the bedding in the new system, gently introduced the worms to their new home, and enthusiastically make the rounds at lunch every Friday to collect worm food donations of fruit and vegetable scraps which are otherwise destined for the county landfill.

**Pacific Crest Montessori's Farm** on Vashon has joined the program in order to compost the food waste and vegetative trimmings from their Vashon Island campus which includes an 18-acre, U-pick farm and orchard. They are in the process of preparing the site for their new Earth Tub. Students have been instrumental in researching the program and selecting a site. ♦

## Green Schools Program 2003-04 Participants

King County is working with two school districts, **Northshore** and **Vashon**, on expanding their conservation practices. In addition, two private schools – **The Evergreen School** (Shoreline) and **Three Cedars School** (Bellevue) – have benefited from the Green Schools Program this year. King County continues to assist **Bellevue High** and **Tolt Middle School** (Carnation) to complete the Green Schools work initiated last year. If your school wants to broaden its conservation practices beyond recycling, consider the Green Schools Program. Check out the program website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/greenschools> or contact Dale Alekel at 206-296-8457. ♦



## EE Website

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) has launched a new website, [www.ClassroomEarth.org](http://www.ClassroomEarth.org), with key information on how educators can obtain the best and most usable environmental education programs available today. ♦



## Waste Reduction and Recycling News *Continued from inside*

### Schedule Free Waste Busters and Natural Connections Classroom Presentations

Space is still available to participate in King County's FREE education programs for secondary schools -



Waste Busters and Natural Connections workshops. Programs are interactive, address essential learnings, and are offered for 45 or 90 minute periods. For more information on these programs, visit the school program website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/second/second.htm>.

- For more information or to schedule Waste Busters, contact 206-443-2851 or email [waste\\_busters@pacsci.org](mailto:waste_busters@pacsci.org).
- For more information on the Natural Connection workshops, contact 206-583-0655 or email [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com). ♦

### Gloria Barron Award

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2004 awards. The Barron Prize recognizes young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment. Winners receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Nomination deadline is April 30, 2004. For more information and to nominate, visit <http://www.barronprize.org>. ♦

### Nominations for Earth Heroes at Schools are due March 5, 2004.

Winners will be honored at a ceremony in May. See details at <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2004/012804.htm> or use the enclosed nomination form.

**For more details on these and other programs, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>**



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